

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows, this listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously presented) A method of removing moisture from items of clothing, which comprises:
 - bringing an item of clothing into contact with at least one absorbent body of an absorbent material in the form of a continuous strand;
 - moving the at least one absorbent body and the item of clothing at the same speed; and
 - subsequently separating the item of clothing from the at least one absorbent body.
2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, which further comprises removing moisture from the absorbent body following contact with the item of clothing.
3. (Previously presented) A method of removing moisture from items of clothing, which comprises:
 - bringing an item of clothing into contact with at least one absorbent body of an absorbent material in the form of a continuous strand;
 - moving the at least one absorbent body and the item of clothing at the same speed;
 - subsequently separating the item of clothing from the at least one absorbent body;
 - removing moisture from the absorbent body following contact with the item of clothing;
 - providing the absorbent body with a plurality of sections; and
 - successively bringing individual sections of the absorbent body into contact with the item of clothing, separating the section from the item of clothing, and removing moisture from the item of clothing.

4. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 3, which further comprises:

circulating the absorbent body to successively move the individual sections of the absorbent body to the item of clothing and to a configuration for removing moisture from a section of the absorbent body.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 2, which further comprises removing moisture from the absorbent body by squeezing.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, which further comprises rolling the at least one absorbent body on the item of clothing.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 1, which further comprises bringing the item of clothing into contact with at least two absorbent bodies separated from one another from different sides of the item of clothing.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 1, which further comprises forcing the item of clothing into contact with the at least one absorbent body with a gas jet.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 1, which further comprises subjecting the item of clothing to action of at least one gas jet acting transversely to a surface of the item of clothing following contact with the absorbent body.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 1, which further comprises:
bringing the absorbent body into contact with a batch of items of clothing
section-by-section; and

moving the sections of the absorbent body brought into contact with at
least one item of clothing to a collecting location at which, following removal of moisture
from a last item of clothing in the batch, an entirety of the absorbent body has moisture
removed from the absorbent body.

11. (Previously presented) A method of removing moisture from items of
clothing, which comprises:

bringing an item of clothing into contact with at least one absorbent body
of an absorbent material in the form of a continuous strand and having a plurality of
sections;

circulating the absorbent body to successively move individual sections of
the absorbent body into contact with the item of clothing and to a configuration for
removing moisture from a section of the absorbent body;

separating the section from the item of clothing;

subjecting the item of clothing to action of at least one gas jet acting
transversely to a surface of the item of clothing following contact with the absorbent
body; and

removing moisture from the absorbent body following contact with the
item of clothing.

Claims 12-15 (Canceled)

16. (Original) A configuration for removing moisture from items of clothing, comprising:

at least one absorbent body of a microfiber material;

a contacting device adapted to contact an item of clothing with said at least one absorbent body and to separate the item of clothing from said at least one absorbent body, said contacting device having a pressure-exerting roller spaced apart from said at least one absorbent body, and

a transporting device moving a plurality of items of clothing successively in a direction of said at least one absorbent body and away therefrom and between said at least one absorbent body and said pressure-exerting roller.

17. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the act of bringing an item of clothing into contact with at least one absorbent body includes moving the item of clothing in a vertically upwardly direction.

18. (New) The method according to claim 1, further comprising two absorbent bodies disposed opposite one another and bringing the item of clothing into contact with the two absorbent bodies simultaneously between the absorbent bodies disposed on directly opposing sides of the item of clothing.

19. (New) A clothes washing device comprising:
a housing;
a transporting device supporting multiple items of clothing for movement along a travel path within the housing;
two absorbent bodies disposed within the housing, each absorbent body including an absorbent material in the form of a continuous strand extending in a vertical direction between upper and lower rollers and being movable about the upper and lower rollers, the travel path extending between the absorbent bodies and the conveying device bringing the items of clothing into contact with the absorbent bodies, the absorbent bodies moving about the upper and lower rollers at the same speed as the item of clothing moving along the travel path; and
a pressure exerting roller contacting the items of clothing with said at least one absorbent body.

20. (New) The clothes washing device according to claim 19, further comprising a squeezing out-roller disposed adjacent each lower roller and squeezing the respective absorbent body between the squeezing-out roller and the lower roller to remove moisture from the absorbent body.

21. (New) The clothes washing device according to claim 19, wherein said absorbent body is of a microfiber material.

22. (New) The clothes washing device according to claim 19, further comprising a compressed air nozzle disposed below each lower roller, the items of clothing passing between the compressed air nozzles before passing between the absorbent bodies along the travel path.